IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

the application of

Aita et al.

SELF-REPAIRING CERAMIC **COATING**

Serial No.: 09/375.169

Filed: August 16, 1999

Docket. No.: 9620.1000

Examiner: J. McNeil

Group Art Unit: 1775

Customer No.: 23422

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED XAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.8

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06/06/2002 JADDO1

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2002, having a response due date by June 26, 2002, the applicants hereby request continued examination of this TO 12002 EC application under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. Prior to such continued examination, please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, replace the paragraph starting on line 7 with the following

paragraph:

-Biomaterials are synthetic materials used to replace or augment a part of a living system or to function in contact with living tissue. Among the many causes for mortality among human beings, cardiovascular diseases account for a major portion of